

REMARKS

This papers responds to the Office Action dated December 23, 2004. A diligent effort has been made to respond to the objections and rejections set forth therein, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11, 13-14, 17-25, and 27-31 remain pending from the prior amendment in this application. Claims 1, 10 and 25 are currently amended. New claims 32 and 33 are added for consideration.

Claims 1, 10 and 25 have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the references cited in the December 23, 2004 Office Action – US 6,415,138 to Sirola, EP 0969641 to Romao, US 5,410,447 to Miyagawa and US 5,185,790 to Mischneko. Specifically, claims 1, 10 and 25 have been amended to include the limitation that the protective cover is detachable from the mobile device with which it cooperates, and is detachably mounted thereto. This limitation is disclosed in the patent specification at least at page 5, line 21 through page 6, line 4, and also at page 10, lines 5-14.

The references cited in the Office Action do not provide a detachable cover, as recited in amended claims 1, 10 and 25. Instead, these references show covers that are permanently affixed to a mobile device. See, for example, Fig. 1 of Romao and Figs. 1-2 of Sirola.

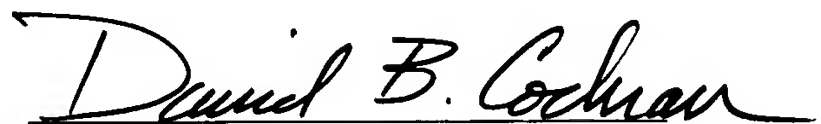
There are several advantages of providing such a detachable cover element, although these advantages should not be viewed as explicit limitations on the claims because the advantages are not recited therein. For example, if the cover element is damaged in some way, then the damaged element can be easily removed and replaced due to the detachable nature of the element. This ease of replacement feature is not possible with the permanently affixed covers

shown in the cited references. In addition, the use of a detachable cover element enables the possibility of having different styles of covers, and also different arrangements of the apertures that are specified in some of the dependent claims.

New claims 32 and 33 show the advantage of this detachable feature by providing a plurality of detachable and interchangeable protective covers which may be detachably mounted to the mobile device, each of the detachable and interchangeable protective covers including a plurality of apertures; and also providing a plurality of cover models stored within the mobile device, each cover model corresponding to one of the plurality of detachable and interchangeable protective covers and describing the position of the apertures within the protective cover. The subject matter of these new claims is not disclosed or suggested in any of the cited references.

Respectfully submitted,

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